

Serial No. 10/525,631
Atty. Doc. No. 2002P09821WOUS

REMARKS

Claims 9-18 are pending in the application.

Claim 9 has been amended to more clearly define the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, amended claim 9 recites, among other aspects, that the electrically controlled add-drop multiplexer is oriented on an electrically conductive layer above an optical coupling element within a connecting opening formed within at least one optical layer of the multi-layer printed circuit board. This orientation allows for an optical signal exiting the add-drop multiplexer to be redirected to an optical waveguide formed within the at least one optical layer. Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art does not teach, suggest or provide incentive to one skilled in the art to arrive at the invention as claimed in amended claim 9.

New claim 19 has been added to more clearly define the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, new claim 19 recites, among other aspects, that an optical signal exiting the electrically controlled electro-optical device is redirected substantially orthogonally by the optical coupling element to an optical waveguide formed within the optical layer as most clearly shown in FIG. 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art does not teach, suggest or provide incentive to one skilled in the art to arrive at the invention as claimed in new claim 19.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and allowance of claims 9-19.


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Conclusion

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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